

1 button, the # key is a forward button, and the 0 key accesses help screens. However,
2 setting keys *, 0, and # to directional arrows is not required, nor is setting the function they
3 perform required. These keys may be set to access specified classes of information as keys
4 1-9 do, or set to perform other Internet functions including, but not limited to, stopping a
5 currently incoming specified class of information, refreshing output of a specified class of
6 information, returning to a home page, or any other Internet function that some graphical
7 browsers may perform.

8 The present invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing
9 from its spirit or essential characteristics. The described embodiments are to be considered
10 in all respects only as illustrative and not restrictive. The scope of the invention is,
11 therefore, indicated by the appended claims rather than by the foregoing description. All
12 changes, which come within the meaning and range of equivalency of the claims, are to be
13 embraced within their scope.

14 What is claimed and desired to be secured by United States Letters Patent is:
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1 1. A system for sending and receiving content from at least one server
2 connected to a network, the system comprising:

3 an access device connected to said network;

4 an input device presenting to a user an interface including a numeric
5 touchpad, the numeric touchpad having a plurality of numbered keys that, when
6 selected by the user, cause the access device to request specified classes of
7 information from the at least one server; and

8 a computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable
9 instructions for configuring the plurality of keys by associating the specified classes
10 of information with particular keys of the plurality of keys.

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12 2. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the input device comprises a display
13 device on which the user interface is displayed.

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15 3. A system as recited in claim 2, wherein the numeric touchpad comprises a
16 graphically displayed representation of a configuration generally similar to a touchpad of a
17 touchtone telephone.

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19 4. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the numeric touchpad comprises an
20 alphanumeric touchpad.

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22 5. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the input device comprises a
23 touchtone telephone including a numeric touchpad of a touchtone telephone.

1 6. A system for sending and receiving content from at least one server
2 connected to a network, the system comprising:

3 an access device connected to said network, including:

4 an input device presenting to a user an interface including a numeric
5 touchpad, the numeric touchpad having a plurality of numbered keys that,
6 when selected by the user, cause the access device to request specified
7 classes of information from the at least one server; and

8 an output device for outputting the specified classes of information
9 that the access device receives; and

10 a computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable
11 instructions for configuring the plurality of keys by associating the specified classes
12 of information with particular keys of the plurality of keys.

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14 7. A system as recited in claim 6, wherein the interface of the input device
15 comprises a display device, wherein the display device is capable of displaying the
16 numeric touchpad.

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18 8. A system as recited in claim 6, wherein the numeric touchpad is generated
19 by the at least one server.

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21 9. A system as recited in claim 6, wherein the output device comprises a video
22 display device.

1 10. A system as recited in claim 6, wherein the output device comprises an audio
2 speaker device.

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4 11. A system as recited in claim 6, wherein the access device comprises a
5 computer system.

6
7 12. In an access device connected to a network by a communication link,
8 wherein the network includes a communication link to at least one server, a method of
9 providing the access device with access to information stored at the at least one server in
10 response to selection of keys of a numeric touchpad included in an interface of an input
11 device associated with the access device, the method comprising the acts of:

12 displaying an interface to a user on a display device associated with the
13 access device, the interface including a representation of a first numeric touchpad
14 having a configuration that is generally similar to the configuration of a second
15 numeric touchpad included on a telephone associated with the network, the second
16 numeric touchpad causing the telephone to transmit a request to the server for a
17 specified class of information in response to selection of a particular key on the
18 second numeric touchpad;

19 at the access device, receiving input in response to a selection of a particular
20 key of the first numeric touchpad that corresponds to the particular key of the
21 second numeric touchpad; and

22 in response to the received input, transmitting a request from the access
23 device to the at least one server for the specified class of information.
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1 13. A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the display device comprises a
2 video display device.

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4 14. A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the act of displaying the interface
5 to the user comprises displaying the keys of the first numeric keypad on the video display
6 device.

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8 15. A method as recited in claim 14, wherein said access device comprises a
9 pointing device capable of selecting a particular key of the first numeric touchpad.

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11 16. A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the act of receiving input in
12 response to a selection of a particular key on the first numeric keypad comprises
13 depressing the particular key on the numeric keypad.

14
15 17. A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the act of transmitting a request
16 from the access device to the at least one server comprises transmitting the request over the
17 network system.

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19 18. A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the access device comprises a
20 computer system.

1 19. A system for sending and receiving content from at least one server
2 connected to a network, the system comprising:

3 an access device connected to said network, including:

4 a first input device presenting to a user an interface including a
5 numeric touchpad, the numeric touchpad including a plurality of keys, the
6 plurality of keys being configured generally similar to the configuration of
7 the keys on a numeric touchpad on a touchtone telephone, that when
8 selected by the user, cause the access device to request specified classes of
9 information from the at least one server;

10 an output device to output received specified classes of information
11 from the server; and

12 a computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-
13 executable instructions for configuring the plurality of keys by associating
14 the specified classes of information with particular keys of the plurality of
15 keys.

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17 20. A system as recited in claim 19, wherein the access device comprises a
18 second input device presenting to the user an interface including a receiver device capable
19 of receiving voice commands that, when voice commands are given by the user, cause the
20 access device to request specified classes of information from the at least one server.

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22 21. A system as recited in claim 19, wherein the output device comprises a
23 video display device.
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22. A system as recited in claim 21, wherein outputting received specified classes of information comprises displaying the received specified classes of information in visual format on the video display device.

23. A system as recited in claim 19, wherein the output device includes a speaker device for outputting the specified classes of information in audio format.

24. A system as recited in claim 19, wherein the access device is a computer system.

1 25. A computer program product for implementing, in an access device included
2 on a network with a communication link to at least one server, a method of providing the
3 access device with access to specific classes of information stored on the at least one server
4 in response to selection of keys of a numeric touchpad included in an interface of an input
5 device associated with the access device, the computer program product comprising:

6 a computer-readable medium carrying computer-executable instructions
7 that, when executed at the access device, cause the access device to perform the
8 method, including the acts of:

9 on a display device associated with the access device, displaying an
10 interface to a user that includes a first numeric touchpad, the first numeric
11 touchpad having a configuration that is generally similar to a configuration
12 of a second numeric touchpad included on a telephone associated with the
13 network, the second touchpad having a particular key that, when selected,
14 causes a request to be transmitted to the server for a specified class of
15 information;

16 receiving input selecting a particular key of the first numeric
17 touchpad that corresponds to the particular key of the second numeric
18 touchpad; and

19 in response to the received input, transmitting a request from the
20 access device to the server for the specified class of information.
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